

North Syracuse Central School District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #4 | November 13, 2020



Message from the Superintendent



Hello North Syracuse Central School District Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Staff!

Once again, we have had a very busy week here in the District. As I'm sure you know, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced that sections of Onondaga County, including areas within NSCSD boundaries, are now designated as "Yellow Zone" microclusters. Microclusters are classified as either yellow, orange or red based on the positive testing rate over seven days. The New York State Department of Health has indicated that the following NSCSD schools are located in yellow zones:

- Allen Road Elementary
- KWS Bear Road Elementary
- Roxboro Road Elementary
- Roxboro Road Middle School
- North Syracuse Junior High School
- North Syracuse Early Education Program (Main Street)

Additionally, two parochial schools in our boundaries, St. Rose and St. Margarets, have also been designated as Yellow Zone schools. "Yellow Zone" schools can only continue operating in-person if they test 20% of students on campus each week and the rate of infection remains at or below 3%.

At this time, with the majority of families surveyed indicating they would like to have their child(ren) tested, the District is planning to move forward with testing in collaboration with Onondaga County. Our intention will be to start testing next week. **No child will be tested without parental consent and parents can be present.**

The test we will likely be using (the [BinaxNOW](#) antigen test) is a rapid test producing results in 15 minutes. The test is a nasal swab test, which is not as invasive as the previous nasal swab test. As testing and scheduling information is made available, we will email information directly to families by school.

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

Final Day to Support "Team NSCSD" Pajamarama and Paige's Butterfly Run



Today is the final day to support students at Cicero-North Syracuse High School (C-NS), along with those from other schools in the North Syracuse Central School District, in the battle to support Paige's Butterfly Run and Paige's Pajamarama!

Paige's Pajamarama is a charity event allowing students to wear their (school appropriate) pajamas when making a donation to Paige's Butterfly Run, Inc., an organization which supports children with pediatric cancer at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

Donations are also being accepted [online by Paige's Butterfly Run, Inc. through PayPal](#) or through Venmo to Paige's Corporate account at Paige's Butterfly Run, Inc. In the comments, please put which building you are donating for (or from) so it counts toward the competition. Every donation counts-Donations to Paige's go directly to Golisano hospital for kids battling pediatric cancer.

[Click here to read the full article online...](#)

NSCSD November 13 Shining Stars: North Syracuse Junior High School Student and Family



This week, we received a number of nominations that we will be featuring throughout the month! Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit a nomination!

We are proud to recognize our first STUDENT Shining Star and her family! Nominated by North Syracuse Junior High School teacher, Maria Carozza, and teaching assistant, Rachelle Brown, is 8th grade student Hannah Dillabough. Hannah is a fully remote student who, with the tremendous support of her grandmother, Lori Harrington, consistently livestreams into her classes at North Syracuse Junior High School.

Maria and Rachelle report that Hannah has not missed a day of school and regularly completes all work. They are impressed with the way Hannah navigates all assignments from her special area classes with assistance from her grandmother, who Hannah affectionally calls "Nana."

[Click here to read more online or to nominate your own Shining Star.](#)

Share a Shout Out to a Shining Star

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unexpected challenges to both teaching and learning but we know that many of our students and teachers are thriving in this environment. We also know other staff are going above and beyond to keep students and families safe and informed.

We'd love to hear (and share) the inspirational stories you have so we can keep the positive vibes going. If you'd like to recognize a North Syracuse Central School District student, teacher, employee or even a volunteer, please complete a short online form giving us some basic information.

"Nominate" a Shining Star

Wellness Wednesdays

When NSCSD school buildings had to close their doors to students and staff in the Spring of 2020, the District started "Wellness Wednesdays" as a way of pulling families together in spite of COVID-19. As the 2020-2021 school year progresses, we need to connect now, more than ever, so we've gotten the "Wellness Wednesdays" band back together. The Wellness Wednesdays website will be our way of sharing resources, information and importantly YOUR thoughts, photos and artwork.

The "Wellness Wednesdays" topic for Veteran's Day is Gratitude. Expressing and or acknowledging gratitude has many benefits both physically as well as emotionally and socially. Psychology today reports fewer aches and pains, increased happiness, reduced anxiety/depression, improved sleep patterns and at the toughest times, if gratitude is acknowledged and or expressed it will foster stronger resilience.

A large number of respondents to our recent parent survey reported being interested in receiving strategies for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) at home. The Wellness Wednesday topic for November 18 will focus on supporting SEL at home. [Click here to view the summary of District-wide parent survey results.](#)

Visit the Wellness Wednesdays Website

Join the "I Am Grateful" Project Video for NSCSD

Please join us in our "grateful" project this month. While it has been a different and challenging school year so far, we know there are things in school that we are grateful for whether you are remote or in person. Staff and students, [please click here to view our slides](#) and then print out the one for the building you are in, write what you are grateful for, take a picture and [put in our padlet by 11/17 by clicking here](#). Then, check out our district wide video on 11/24. Showing gratitude can make us healthier both physically and mentally!

District Presenting "Supporting Your Child During Remote Learning" Virtual Family Forum - Link Will be Available 11/17

The District has an upcoming Family Forum, "Supporting Your Child During Remote Learning," that will provide parents with essential information on executive functioning (the skills used to learn, play and socialize,) organization/ time management and breaks and rewards. It will build on the home-school collaboration needed for student success. Parents will learn strategies to help make remote learning easier and more rewarding. The session is being recorded and will be available as a download next week. We will send the link out when it becomes available.

Send Us Your Photos!



Because this school year has been so different, it has been challenging to get new photos for our District website at www.nscsd.org and other publications. So...we need your help!

We would love to share your photos of at home school environments. If you're willing to share, please send your high quality images using the link below. We'll be using your photos in this newsletter and other publications throughout the school year. Additionally, high resolution, horizontal photos will be considered for the District website.

[Submit Your Photos Now!](#)

Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Holding free Virtual Screening of The Upstanders

Join Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Thursday, November 18 at 7 p.m. for a virtual screening of *Upstanders*, a film-based education program about cyber-bullying, bullying among friends, families, co-workers and the brain science behind it all. The film includes interviews with kids, teens, experts and families.

A panel discussion will immediately follow the film, and will include Upstate's own Jennifer Rapke, PsyD, a licensed clinical psychologist and Chief of the Child Psychiatry Consultation Liaison Service at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. The screening has a capacity of 500. Thanks to the Upstate Foundation for the funding to provide this free screening to the community. [Registration is required and can be completed online by clicking here.](#)



Important Upcoming Dates

November 16
Board of Education Meeting

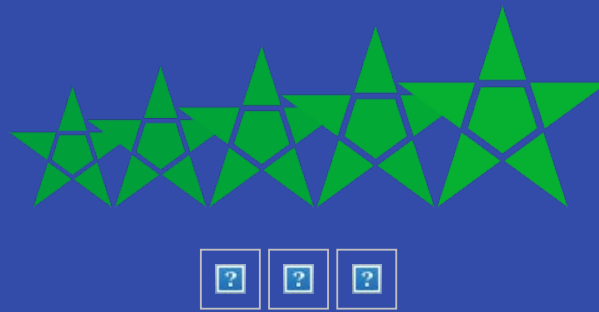
November 16
["More Than Sad" Virtual Presentation](#)

November 18
Half Day for Pre-K - 6 Students - Parent Conferences

November 20
10 Week Reporting Period Cards (Gr. 5-12)
Available Online

Quick Links

- [Technical Help Website](#)
- [Family Wellness Website](#)
- [Online Calendar](#)
- [Google Classroom Help](#)
- [November Blood Drive Info.](#)
- [Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#)



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